

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA No. 84.206A]****Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1996**

Purpose of Program: To provide grants to help build a nationwide capability in elementary and secondary schools to identify and meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students; to encourage the development of rich and challenging curricula for all students; and to supplement and make more effective the expenditures of State and local funds for the education of gifted and talented students.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies; local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; and other public and private agencies and organizations, including Indian tribes and organizations—as defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act—and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 14, 1996.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 12, 1996.

Applications Available: May 3, 1996.

Estimated Available Funds: \$1,765,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000–\$275,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$250,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 7.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months. Please note that all applicants for multi-year awards are required to provide detailed budget information for the total grant period requested. The Department will negotiate at the time of the initial award the funding levels for each year of the grant award.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the final regulations for Standards for the Conduct and Evaluation of Activities Carried Out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)—Evaluation of Applications for Grants and Cooperative Agreements and Proposals for Contracts, published on September 14, 1995, in the Federal Register (60 FR 47808) and to be codified at 34 CFR Part 700.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR Part 791 previously applicable to this program will no longer apply to this program.

Priorities: The notice of final priorities as published in this issue of the Federal Register applies to this competition.

For Applications or Information Contact: Janet Williams, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, room 502, Washington, DC 20208–5645; *Facsimile machine:* (202) 219–2053; *Telephone:* (202) 219–1674. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m., and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260–9950; on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases); or world wide web site at (<http://www.ed.gov/money.html>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8031–8036.

Dated: April 18, 1996.

Sharon P. Robinson,
Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces an absolute priority and a competitive preference priority under the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program. The Secretary takes this action to focus Federal financial assistance on specific approaches to identifying and serving gifted and talented students. The Secretary may use these priorities in FY 1996 and subsequent years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities take effect May 24, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Williams, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 504, Washington, D.C. 20208–5645. Fax: (202) 219–2053; Telephone: (202) 219–1674. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal

Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program is designed to build nationwide capability in gifted and talented education and encourage rich and challenging curricula for all children.

The Secretary seeks to improve the education of gifted and talented children, and to promote the use of strategies developed in gifted and talented education programs to help improve the education of all students. The Secretary believes that improving the education of gifted and talented students is an integral part of achieving the National Education Goals, which require that every student attain higher standards of academic excellence. The Secretary is particularly concerned that the educational needs of gifted and talented students from populations historically underserved by gifted and talented education programs be addressed. In addition, the Secretary wants to see gifted and talented education programs contribute to systemic education reform by modeling coordinated systems of challenging standards and assessments, curricula, and teacher preparation aligned with those standards to improve education. The Secretary believes that the use of challenging content and performance standards is the most promising way to raise students' achievement.

Therefore, the Secretary announces an absolute priority that would support the development of model demonstration programs that focus on economically disadvantaged children, children with limited English proficiency, or children with disabilities. Each project would be required to involve a school or schools that serve at least 50 percent low-income children and to incorporate professional development of staff and training of parents into the program. In addition, the program must be based on challenging content and performance standards in one or more of the core subject areas, and include a comprehensive improvement plan for each school involved in the project.

The Secretary announces a competitive priority to direct financial assistance to projects that primarily benefit areas that have been designated as Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities in accordance with Section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), as amended by Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993.